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High Court win for crane-crush Geelong man

A worker whose right arm was crushed when a crane fell across it has finally won a round in his three-year legal battle.

Brett Dwyer, 43, of Grovedale, near Geelong, lost his County Court bid to bring legal action for compensation, and was also unsuccessful in the Court of Appeal. Both courts rejected that Mr. Dwyer's injury was serious.

But the High Court of Australia has allowed his bid for a further appeal and will hear his case next year. Slater and Gordon lawyer Danny Connor says Mr. Dwyer suffers constant pain in his arm, which is deformed and permanently bent.

"As a result of the injury, he can hardly brush his teeth or hair. He can't do repetitive movements or forced movements. He can't lift heavy objects. Every morning for the rest of his life he will have pain in his arm," Mr. Connor said.

Mr. Dwyer was fortunate not to lose his arm after the accident, when bleeding caused the arm to swell.

"Medical staff had to cut a slit from the top of his arm to the bottom on both the under and upper sides to allow the flesh to come out of the wound," Mr. Connor said.